CLAIMS

1   1.   An apparatus comprising:

2   at least one processor;

3   a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

4   an object oriented framework mechanism residing in the memory and executed by the

5 at least one processor, the framework mechanism comprising a platform independent product

6 configuration selection model that defines a hierarchy of information that may be presented to

7 a user for product configuration selection determination and that defines logic that specifies

8 at least one relationship between items in the hierarchy of information, the logic operating on

9 data stored external to the framework mechanism, thereby achieving a separation between the

10 logic in the framework mechanism and the data upon which the logic in the framework

11 mechanism operates.

1   2.   The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a platform-dependent graphical user

2 interface that uses the framework mechanism to display the hierarchy of information to the

3 user.

1   3.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at least

2 one page.

1   4.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at least

2 one selection group.

1   5.   The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at least

2 one selection item in each selection group.

1   6.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the logic operates on the external data, thereby

2   causing a change in the external data to be autonomically reflected in the hierarchy of

3   information in the platform independent product configuration selection model.

1   7.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the framework mechanism comprises a plurality

2   of extensible object oriented classes.

1   8.   An apparatus comprising:

2   at least one processor;

3   a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

4   a database residing in the memory, the database including product configuration

5   selection data;

6   an object oriented framework mechanism residing in the memory and executed by

7   the at least one processor, the framework mechanism comprising a platform independent

8   product configuration selection model that defines a hierarchy of information that may be

9   presented to a user for product configuration selection determination and that defines

10   logic that specifies at least one relationship between items in the hierarchy of information,

11   the logic operating on the product configuration selection data in the database, thereby

12   achieving a separation between the logic in the framework mechanism and the data upon

13   which the logic in the framework mechanism operates, and thereby causing a change in

14   the external data to be autonomically reflected in the hierarchy of information in the

15   platform independent product configuration selection model.

1 9.   A method for presenting product configuration information to a user, the method

2 comprising the steps of:

3   (1) providing a data-driven object oriented framework mechanism that defines a

4 hierarchy of information that may be presented to the user, the data-driven framework

5 mechanism defining logic that specifies at least one relationship between items in the

6 hierarchy of information, the data-driven framework mechanism operating on product

7 configuration selection data stored external to the framework mechanism;

8   (2) updating the product configuration selection data to include data related to a

9 new product; and

10   (3) the framework mechanism autonomically adding the new product to the

11 hierarchy of information based on the data related to the new product.

1 10.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of extending at least one class

2 in the framework mechanism.

1 11.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing a platform-

2 dependent graphical user interface that uses the framework mechanism to display the

3 hierarchy of information to a user on a specified platform.

1 12.   The method of claim 9 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at least one

2 page.

1 13.   The method of claim 9 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at least one

2 selection group.

1 14.   The method of claim 13 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at least one

2 selection item in each selection group.

1 15. A method for presenting product configuration information to a user, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3   (1) providing a data-driven object oriented framework mechanism that defines a
4 hierarchy of information that may be presented to the user, the hierarchy of information
5 including at least one page, at least one selection group, and at least one selection item in
6 each selection group, the data-driven framework mechanism defining logic that specifies
7 at least one relationship between items in the hierarchy of information, the logic operating
8 on product configuration selection data stored external to the framework mechanism;
9   (2) updating the product configuration selection data to include data related to a
10 new product; and
11   (3) the framework mechanism autonomically adding the new product to the
12 hierarchy of information based on the data related to the new product.

1 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of providing a platform-
2 dependent graphical user interface that uses the framework mechanism to display the
3 hierarchy of information to a user on a specified platform.

1 17.   A program product comprising:

2   (1) an object oriented framework mechanism comprising a platform independent

3 product configuration selection model that defines a hierarchy of information that may be

4 presented to a user for product configuration selection determination and that defines

5 logic that specifies at least one relationship between items in the hierarchy of information,

6 the logic operating on data stored external to the framework mechanism, thereby

7 achieving a separation between the logic in the framework mechanism and the data upon

8 which the logic in the framework mechanism operates; and

9   (2) computer readable signal bearing media bearing the framework mechanism.

1 18.   The program product of claim 17 wherein the signal bearing media comprises

2 recordable media.

1 19.   The program product of claim 17 wherein the signal bearing media comprises

2 transmission media.

1 20.   The program product of claim 17 further comprising a platform-dependent

2 graphical user interface that uses the framework mechanism to display the hierarchy of

3 information to the user.

1 21.   The program product of claim 17 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at

2 least one page.

1 22.   The program product of claim 17 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at

2 least one selection group.

1   23.   The program product of claim 22 wherein the hierarchy of information includes at

2   least one selection item in each selection group.

1   24.   The program product of claim 17 wherein the logic operates on the external data,

2   thereby causing a change in the external data to be autonomically reflected in the

3   hierarchy of information in the platform independent product configuration selection

4   model.

1   25.   The program product of claim 17 wherein the framework mechanism comprises a

2   plurality of extensible object oriented classes.

1   26.   A program product comprising:

2   (1) an object oriented framework mechanism comprising a platform independent

3   product configuration selection model that defines a hierarchy of information that may be

4   presented to a user for product configuration selection determination and that defines

5   logic that specifies at least one relationship between items in the hierarchy of information,

6   the logic operating on the product configuration selection data in the database, thereby

7   achieving a separation between the logic in the framework mechanism and the data upon

8   which the logic in the framework mechanism operates, and thereby causing a change in

9   the external data to be autonomically reflected in the hierarchy of information in the

10   platform independent product configuration selection model; and

11   (2) computer readable signal bearing media bearing the framework mechanism.

1   27.   The program product of claim 26 wherein the signal bearing media comprises

2   recordable media.

1   28.   The program product of claim 26 wherein the signal bearing media comprises

2   transmission media.

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